

NEWS FROM THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.publicdefender.mt.gov

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Sandra Law, is our new Financial Manager. Sandra is a CPA with 18 years of experience as a legal financial administrator, in both the private and state sectors. Sandra can be reached at 406-496-6089.

Theron Wilson has been hired as an IT Technician and will be working with IT Manager Teri Heiland. Theron can be reached at (406) 496-6087.

Monique Lary, a world traveler and Property Manager, is the new part-time receptionist. She can be reached at 406-496-6081.

Eric Olson has been hired as the Public Defender Training Coordinator; Eric was previously the Chief Public Defender in Great Falls. His new number is (406) 496-6086.

Larry Murphy will be the Contract Manager. He has a wealth of experience as a judge and attorney in Helena. He can be reached at 406-496-6088.



UPCOMING PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION MEETING

April 21st & 22nd, 2006 to be held at the Pre-Release Center, 1019 15th St. North, Great Falls. The meeting on Friday the 21st will run from 8:30 until 5:00, and Saturday from 8:30 to noon.

OUR ADDRESS

We are located in beautiful uptown Butte at:

44 West Park Street

Phone Number (406) 496-6080 Fax Number (406) 496-6098

Regional Deputy Public Defender Positions:

The following regional positions were recently filled by:

Kalispell Region 1 - **Open**
Missoula Region 2 – **Ed Sheehy**
Great Falls Region 3 – **Kristina Neal**
Helena Region 4 - **Jeremy Gersovitz**
Butte Region 5 - **Open**
Havre Region 6 – **Open**
Lewistown Region 7 – **Doug Day**
Bozeman Region 8 – **Peter Ohman**
Billings Region 9 – **Carl DeBelly**
Glendive Region 10– **Ali Moulton**
Miles City Region 11 – **Matt Wald**

BENEFIT INFO

The Department of Administration's HR folks, Casi Hunter, Barb Kain and a representative from the Office of the State Public Defender will be coming to each regional office to discuss benefits.

Tentative Schedule:

- **Helena** May 9th – 10 a.m. – noon & 1-3 p.m.
- **Bozeman** May 18th – 1-5 p.m.
- **Great Falls** May 19th – 10 a.m.-noon & 1-3 p.m.
- **Billings** May 24th – 10 a.m –noon & 1-3 p.m.
- **Missoula** May 26th – 1-5 p.m.
- **Anaconda** June 1st – time TBD

If you have not received your benefit packet, please call Bonnie at (406) 496-6083

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: I am a county employee that will be transferred to state employment on July 1, 2006. What will happen to my compensatory time?

Answer: Under Senate Bill 146, the State Public Defender bill, counties must handle compensatory time prior to state assumption as it does *not* transfer over upon assumption. You may need to talk with your county Human Resources/Payroll office about this leave.

Question: I am a county employee that will be transferred to state employment on July 1, 2006. When will I receive my first state paycheck?

Answer: July 19th will be your first paycheck for the week of July 3rd. This paycheck will contain 1 week's pay. For a complete pay schedule for FY 2007 go to :

<http://hr.mt.gov/Payroll/BenefitsDeductionCalendar2006.xls>

Website Update

The updated Standards have been posted to the website. A copy of the revised Strategic Plan and Regional Maps has also been added. Go to www.publicdefender.mt.gov for more information.

Trading Spaces

In an effort to accommodate the expansion and integration of the Public Defender system in Montana, some offices and employees will soon be moving. The address for the Missoula Regional and Public Defender offices will be **602 Woody**, Missoula, Mt 59802. In Anaconda, the Public Defender's office will be located at **118 Cherry** St. Meanwhile in Helena we are currently looking for space for the regional office, while hoping to expand the Appellate Defender's office at **301 N. Park, 5th Floor**. The addresses for other offices around the state will be released as spaces are found and secured in preparation for July 1st. Please make a note of these new addresses.